



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Pittsburgh District

# North Park Lake Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project

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## Authorization

Section 206, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-303), as amended. The project's non-federal cost sharing sponsor is the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

## Project Location and Description

North Park Lake – located in Hampton, McCandless and Pine Townships – was created by Allegheny County in the 1920's. The signature piece of the 3,010 acre County Park is its man-made North Park Lake. The aquatic ecosystem of North Park Lake and Pine Creek is being progressively degraded by continual sediment deposition from storm water runoff due to increasing suburban development in the surrounding watershed. A secondary problem is stream bank erosion along portions of Pine Creek, which contributes to the sedimentation problem within the lake. The on-going sedimentation is blanketing the lake bottom, degrading benthic habitat and slowly reducing the amount of available open water habitat. This has resulted in a severe eutrophic (lack of oxygen) condition in the lake which affects the species of fish and other aquatic organisms ability to survive.



*North Park Lake Habitat*



*Open water of North Park Lake*

## Project Plan

This project will remove accumulated sediment to the original contours of the North Fork Arm of the lake. The restoration of this portion of the lake will restore approximately 33 acres of the lake and generate great aquatic ecosystem benefits. In addition to sediment removal, structures will be added that fish can use for cover and nesting, increasing aquatic cover and wetland habitat. A secondary benefit will be the removal of exotic (non-native) aquatic plants that can use up oxygen, choke out beneficial native plants and reduce fish habitat.

## Project Cost (Shared between the Corps of Engineers and the County of Allegheny)

Estimated Federal Cost	\$5,000,000	-- 65 percent of total cost
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$2,690,000	-- 35 percent of total cost
Total Estimated Cost	\$7,690,000 = estimated total project cost to restore 33 acres	

## Current Status

The Corps of Engineers continues to work in partnership with the County of Allegheny. The Phase I contract, which will cover 33 acres of the North Fork Arm of the lake, has been awarded by the Corps to Charles J. Merlo Incorporated. It is anticipated that Merlo will be on site in January 2010. The County has awarded the Site Preparation Contract to Allison Park Contractor's Incorporated. Allison Park is currently on site and has been working on preparing the laydown areas as well as the access ramps to the lake. They will also be preparing the Wildwood Disposal Site to receive sediment from the lake. Allegheny County has recently gone out for bids for the final sediment removal contract (Phase II). This contract will handle the remaining sediment to be removed from the lake.

There have been some issues with debris blocking the gate house which has hindered the efforts to keep the lake drained. The Corps is working with Allegheny County and the two contractors on site to address this situation.

**For More Information Contact:**

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